



News Release from Congressman

ROB SIMMONS

SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

WWW.HOUSE.GOV/SIMMONS

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CONTACT: JOHN GOODWIN
202/812-1341

SIMMONS MOVES TO LIMIT ACCESS TO BOMB-MAKING CHEMICAL

*Homeland Security Committee Measure Increases Restrictions On
Chemical Used In Oklahoma City Bombing; Canadian Terror Plot*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, today praised passage of legislation which would create a tracking system for ammonium nitrate fertilizer. This congressional action comes on the heels of a foiled terrorist plot in Canada where an alleged terrorist cell possessed a massive amount of the explosive material.

The House Homeland Security Committee, on which Simmons is a member, this morning unanimously passed H.R. 3197, the "Secure Handling of Ammonium Nitrate Act of 2006." The measure now moves to the full House for consideration.

"Just last week, Canadian authorities uncovered a plot to use three tons of ammonium nitrate to bomb government and media buildings," Simmons said. "This is the same material used in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing and the 2003 nightclub attack in Bali. Today's action by the House Homeland Security Committee creates strong federal regulations and gives law enforcement an important tool to prevent ammonium nitrate from falling into the wrong hands."

Specifically, the measure requires dealers and buyers of ammonium nitrate fertilizer to register with the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security. Under the House bill, purchasers of the chemicals would have to provide a legal form of identification, and this information would be entered into a registry. Violators of the bill would be subject to a maximum \$50,000 penalty.

Simmons concluded, "Ammonium nitrate is a valuable fertilizer to farmers, but as we have seen recently and in the past, it is also a deadly ingredient used by terrorists. This bill puts forth common-sense, practical safeguards for securing and distributing ammonium nitrate-based fertilizer. I look forward to Congress passing this homeland security legislation."

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